

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 3, 2008 was received and carefully reviewed.

Claim 12 is hereby amended to clarify the invention, and not for reasons of patentability. By this reply, claim 14 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, and 11 were canceled by a previous response. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 6-9, 12, 13, and 15-18 are pending in the subject application.

Support for the amendment to independent claim 12 can be found at least at Embodiment mode 5 in the present specification as originally filed. Accordingly, Applicant contends that the amendment to independent claim 12 does not include new matter.

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application is requested in view of the above amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 2, 3, 6-9, 15, and 17. In addition, Applicants wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of the allowable subject matter in now canceled claim 14. The limitations of now canceled claim 14 have been incorporated into base independent claim 12. Thus, Applicant contends that claim 12 is in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited.

Claim Rejections

Claims 12, 13, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as alleged being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Masatoshi et al. (JP 2000-066233) (*Masatoshi*, hereinafter). Claims 12, 13, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Katsuya et al. (JP 07-221367) (*Katsuya*, hereinafter) in view of *Masatoshi*. Applicant traverses these rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

Present independent claim 12, and the claims dependent therefrom, are patently distinguishable over *Masatoshi* and *Katsuya*, since *Masatoshi* and *Katsuya*, taken either alone or

in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features recited in the pending claims. For example, independent claim 12 (emphasis added) recites:

12. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:
forming a gate electrode over a substrate having an insulating surface;
forming a first insulating film over the gate electrode;
forming source and drain electrodes over the first insulating film;
forming a semiconductor film containing an organic material over the source and drain electrodes;
forming an inorganic film over the semiconductor film;
forming a mask over the inorganic film;
etching the inorganic film using the mask to form a barrier layer;
after forming the barrier layer, etching the semiconductor film using the mask to form a semiconductor layer; and
forming a second insulating film over the mask.

Thus, independent claims 12 is directed to, *inter alia*, the features of forming an inorganic film over the semiconductor film, forming a mask over the inorganic film, etching the inorganic film using the mask to form a barrier layer, and after forming the barrier layer, etching the semiconductor film using the mask to form a semiconductor layer.

Applicants contend that neither *Masatoshi* nor *Katsuya*, taken either alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest at least the features of forming an inorganic film over the semiconductor film, forming a mask over the inorganic film, etching the inorganic film using the mask to form a barrier layer, and after forming the barrier layer, etching the semiconductor film using the mask to form a semiconductor layer, as recited in present independent claim 12.

Masatoshi discloses a field-effect transistor (FET) that can be formed on a plastic plate, and for use in a liquid crystal display (see *Masatoshi*, e.g., paragraphs [0016]-[0017]). However, *Masatoshi* is completely silent with regard to the features of forming an inorganic film over the semiconductor film, forming a mask over the inorganic film, etching the inorganic film using the mask to form a barrier layer, and after forming the barrier layer, etching the semiconductor film using the mask to form a semiconductor layer, as recited in present independent claim 12.

Katsuya discloses an organic electroluminescent display device, which uses a conductive oligomer layer between two electrodes, and the display also includes an orientation cascade screen (see *Katsuya*, e.g., paragraphs [0012]-[0015]). However, *Katsuya* is completely silent with regard to the features of forming an inorganic film over the semiconductor film, forming a mask over the inorganic film, etching the inorganic film using the mask to form a barrier layer, and after forming the barrier layer, etching the semiconductor film using the mask to form a semiconductor layer, as recited in present independent claim 12. In addition, *Masatoshi* fails to make up for the deficiencies of *Katsuya*, for at least the reasons stated above.

Thus, neither *Masatoshi* nor *Katsuya*, taken either alone or in combination, anticipate or render obvious all the features recited in the invention as presently claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of independent claim 12.

Further, claims 13, 16, and 18 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 12, but also because they are distinguishable over the prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are also respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If, however, the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution and engage in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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